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RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3543  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9476  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9803  
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 5445  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 1733  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 5792

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STATE FOR IO/EDA - D BALLARD AND EEB/IFD/ODF - K MONAHAN

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TAGS: EAID ECON EFIN UNGA AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA SUPPORTIVE ON UN CONFERENCE ON  
DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF CRISIS

REF: STATE 50892

Classified By: Acting econcouns W Albright, reasons 1.4 b, d

¶1. (SBU) Econoff delivered reftel points May 20 to Marco Salvio, acting director for the International Financial Crisis Task Force at Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The GOA fully shares our concerns about the direction of the UN Conference on the Development Impact of Crisis. In fact, DFAT had just the previous evening sent similar instructions to several of its embassies (including Washington) instructing them to express Australia's concerns. Talking again May 21, Salvio noted how things are moving quickly on this, with agreement in New York to move ahead on the basis of a revised document from the co-facilitators.

¶2. (C) Salvio shared the GOA's objectives for the conference:

Australia wants the an outcome that demonstrates a good response to the global financial crisis, with the focus on development issues. This will lead to a significant shift in Australian ODA priorities towards supporting jobs, poverty alleviation, and support for the most vulnerable. Want this conference's outcome to support or at least complement G20 outcomes from the meetings in Washington and London. Australia wants good, practical outcomes that could be taken up at the next G20 meeting in New York in September.

¶3. (U) Salvio told us that the GOA has decided it would be represented at the conference by Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Bob McMullen, who has responsibility within the Cabinet for foreign assistance issues.

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